

SoundWordSight

an arts magazine

Hlif Sigurjonsdottir in Concert at National Opera Center – A Brief Review by Mark Greenfest

January 25, 2016 by Admin



Independent classical music critic Mark Greenfest wrote this about Icelandic violinist Hlif Sigurjonsdottir's January 10 solo recital at New York City's National Opera Center:

"The Runa Ingimundar work, **From My Home**, contains melodic fragments from folk lyrics, with repeated intervals of fourths and fifths that give this recent piece a neo-renaissance, dancing flavor, rich with deep tone and a homespun feel, yet the music has an air of dignity that reminds one of Bach."

"Ms. Sigurjonsdottir performed the **Bach Partita II** in d minor with passionate intensity, crisp bowing and sufficient restraint that every nuance was audible. With various key modulations, the Bach moves in a circle."

"In a modernist vein, with rocking motion, acerbic tone modulations and accompanied by a wintry, kaleidoscopic show of light-projected imagery, Merrill Clark's **The Sorceress – Sigurjonsdottir Sonata**, with its clockwork modulations, follows in the Western tradition of Bach." Hear a section of the Sonata below.

The violinist herself said, "The theme of the program is how everything seems to connect, the past, present and the future."

"Rúna's great great grandfather collected folksongs from his area (Suður Þingeyjarsýsla, Iceland) and Rúna selected five of those to be the stem of this solo violin work for me."

"The incredible impact of J.S.Bach's music on western music and musicians and his solo violin music inspired Merrill to write his sonata."

Visit Hlif Sigurjonsdottir at <http://www.hlifsigurjons.is/index-e.htm>. More about her MSR Classics CD of solo violin works, Dialogus at <http://www.msrcd.com/catalog/cd/MS1551>.